

# CNICIMOD

## Newsletter



Newsletter of the  
Chinese Committee on  
International Centre for  
Integrated Mountain  
Development

# ICIMOD

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FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

## Research

### NSFC–ICIMOD Conduct Joint Field Investigation of China–Nepal Highway

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) conducted their first joint field investigation of the China–Nepal Highway in September 2017.

Researchers and scientists monitored mountain hazards along the China–Nepal Highway, including Lhasa–Zhangmu and Lhasa–Jilong. They surveyed disaster areas along the highway and are currently working to identify possible reasons. They will rely on a comprehensive analysis of data provided by a meteorological station in the area. This includes meteorological data, satellite remote sensing data, digital topographical map data, and historical disaster occurrence data. The investigation will provide data support to study mountain hazards along the highway in the future.

Remote Sensing Monitoring and Early Warning of Mountain Hazards along the China–Nepal Highway, the

concerned NSFC–ICIMOD programme, is hosted by Zhang Yonghong of the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology.

### NSFC–ICIMOD Conduct Workshop and Field Research to Better Understand Adaptation in the Koshi River Basin

Cascading Adaptation of Rural Livelihood to Changing Environment in the Koshi River Basin, an NSFC–ICIMOD programme, conducted a workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 12 October 2017. Project members from China, Nepal, and Bangladesh participated in the event.

Arun Bhakta Shrestha, programme manager of ICIMOD's regional programme on River Basins, introduced the Centre's watershed research plan with a special focus on the implementation of Koshi, HYCOS, Indus, and HI-AWARE projects. Fang Yiping, from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS (IMHE), delivered a keynote presentation on the background, significance, and working plan of this research programme. Xiong Donghong, from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS (IMHE),

China–Nepal Highway joint field investigation



Group photo of China, Nepal, and Bangladesh workshop





Questionnaire investigation along the Koshi River

introduced the research plan of water disasters in the Koshi River basin and the progress made in research related to climate change, water disasters, and spatial distribution of slope farmland in the Koshi River basin.

Santosh Nepal, water and climate specialist at ICIMOD, discussed the results of climate change, hydrological models, water resources, and assessment of drought disaster in the Koshi River basin. Kabir Uddin, GIS and remote sensing specialist at ICIMOD, discussed the results of research on land cover mapping, assessment of soil erosion, and remote sensing monitoring of flood disasters in the Koshi River Basin. Nilhari Neupane, socio-economic analyst, ICIMOD, introduced results of research on the status of rural livelihoods, and problems and adaptation strategies in the Kosi River basin.

Researchers and scientists affiliated with the programme conducted field research on water resources, water disasters, and rural livelihoods in the Koshi River basin from 13 October to 22 October 2017. Their investigation focused on the Sunkoshi, Tama Koshi, Rosi Koshi, and Magha Khola rivers, and covered a distance of over 100 kilometres across Dhulikhel, Ramechhep, Manthali, Sindhulimadi, Janakpur, Dolalghat, Chautara and Sindhupalchowk.

## NSFC–ICIMOD Programme on Assessment of Mountain Hazards in Tibet Makes Significant Progress

The NSFC–ICIMOD collaborative research programme, Quantitative Prediction and Risk Assessment of Mountain Hazards in the Tibet Plateau Based on the Analysis of Dynamic Evolution Processes, hosted by He Siming, professor at the Institute of Mountain hazards and Environment (IMHE), made significant progress in 2017.

The programme in developed liquid mass conservation equations, fine particle components' mass conservation

equations, the erosion rule of solid fine particle, and the deposition rule of liquid fine particle. It has been conducting a coupling analysis theoretical framework of unsaturated loose soil seepage and erosion; developing a coupling calculating programme between seepage, erosion, and stress; and revealing the dynamic mechanism of landslides caused by fine particle migration. Nine academic papers were published in 2017, including seven Science Citation Index (SCI) papers.

## Second Round of NSFC–ICIMOD Programmes Approved

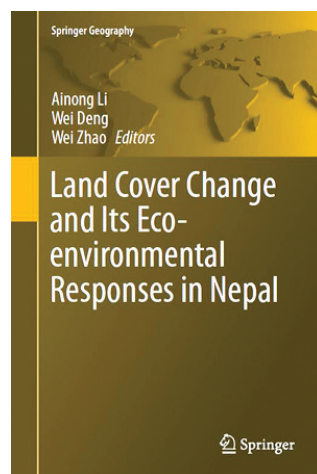
The NSFC formally approved eight programmes after the second round of NSFC–ICIMOD programme application was completed on 17 October 2017. Research fields of these programmes include the evolution of ecosystems, geological disasters, etc.

The programme list as follows:

Title	Chinese Applicant Chinese Organization	ICIMOD Applicant
Calculation of Carbon Storage in Grassland Ecosystem in Hindu Kush Himalaya	Cui Xiaoyong, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences	Bhaskar Karki
Glacier Change and Its Hydrological Impact in Hunza River Basin along the China-Pakistan Economical Corridor Under the Climate Change	Liu Shiyin, Yunnan University	Arun Shrestha
Seismological Factors of Geo-disasters induced by Nepal Earthquake in 2015	Bai Ling, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS	Sagar Bajracharya
Mechanism for the formation and evolution of landslides in the south and east edges of Tibet Plateau under the ecology-hydrology-rock and soil coupling effect	Su Lijun, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS	Sagar Ratna Bajracharya
Mechanism and Environmental Effects on Water Quality Change in the Koshi River Basin	Zhang Fan, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS	Aditi Mukherji
Impact of Climate Change and Human Activities on Water Resources in Amu Darya and Its Optimal Allocation	Chen Xi, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, CAS	Faisal Mueen Qamer
Dynamic Mechanism on Major High-speed Long-distance Landslides along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the South of the Tibetan – Qinghai Plateau	Cheng Qiangong, Southwest Jiaotong University	Sanjeev K Bhuchar
Land Use Change and Its Impact on Ecosystem Services in the Koshi River Basin	Zhang Yili, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS	Mir Abdul Matin



## Book on Land Cover Change and its Eco-environmental Responses published



A book titled “Land Cover Change and Its Eco-environmental Responses in Nepal” authored by Li Ainong and Deng Wei, professors at the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS (IMHE), was formally published by Springer Nature in September 2017.

In the past few decades, owing to rapid population growth and the impact of climate change, environmental problems in sectors such as water, air, waste, energy, and forestry are reaching a crisis point in Nepal, reflected by dramatic changes in the land use/cover system in the country. Ainong Li and Wei Deng initiated a joint research focusing on the eco-environment in Nepal with support from the China-Nepal Joint Research Centre for Geography and regional science and technology cooperation frameworks. These also included cooperation agreements signed by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), the Chinese Academy of Sciences with Tribhuvan University (TU), and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Fifty scientists from China and Nepal conducted joint researches on land use/cover change and its eco-environmental responses in Nepal. The studies are presented in the new book through 20 chapters separated into four sections focusing on land use/cover change, eco-environmental change, livelihood and adaptation, geo-hazards and 4.25 earthquake and its impacts. Each chapter highlights a particular case study to analyse and identify land use and land cover change in Nepal at different temporal and spatial scales. In general, it offers a systematic introduction and overview of the eco-environment and dynamics of Nepal, includes abundant colour images of the mountain ecosystem and environment monitoring using remote-sensing methods and spatial information techniques, presents comprehensive studies related to different subjects concerning eco-environmental changes in Nepal, and provides a deep perspective on the various causes and potential consequences of eco-environmental degradation in Nepal.

## Cooperation and Communication

### Second CNICIMOD–ICIMOD Steering Committee Meeting held in Chengdu

The second CNICIMOD–ICIMOD steering committee meeting was held in Chengdu on 30 October 2017, according an MoU signed between the two parties. Participants include David Molden, Eklabya Sharma, Wu Ning, Long Ruijun and Naina Shakya from ICIMOD; Dong Qi from CAS, and Wu Yanhong, Liu Qin, and Liu Anni from CNICIMOD.

David Molden, director general of ICIMOD, thanked CNICIMOD for coordinating its Chinese members. He was especially grateful for CNICIMOD’s contributions to strengthening the NSFC–ICIMOD Joint Programme in China. Dong Qi, on behalf of CAS, offered some suggestions on how to improve bilateral cooperation in the fields of new energy, agriculture etc. through the Belt and Road Initiative.

Wu Yanhong, director of the CNICIMOD secretariat, reviewed CNICIMOD’s achievements since the last steering committee meeting. Focusing on working modalities, the following topics were discussed: nomination of Chair of Steering Committee meeting, NSFC-ICIMOD Joint Programme Workshop, ICIMOD private sector partners in China, ICIMOD Five-year Action Plan, CNICIMOD membership construction, partnership between CNICIMOD and HUC, CNICIMOD newsletter, staff exchange, and ICIMOD recruitment in China, among others. Secretary General of CNICIMOD and CAS Academician Cui Peng, and David Molden were nominated as co-chairs. The next steering committee meeting will be held in Nepal.

Steering committee meeting







Group photo at the HUC Annual Meeting in Chengdu

## Chengdu hosts International Conference on Mountain Resources and Livelihoods in the HKH and Annual Meeting of the Himalayan University Consortium

Source: Collaborative Innovation Centre for Security and Development of Western Frontier China, Sichuan University

The International Conference on Mountain Resources and Livelihoods in The Hindu Kush Himalayan Region: Higher Education Research and Regional Collaboration for Sustainable Mountain Development and the Himalayan University Consortium Annual Meeting, co-organized by ICIMOD and Sichuan University, was held in Chengdu during 29 October and 1 November 2017.

The opening ceremony of the meeting was co-chaired by Wang Zhuo, secretary general of the Collaborative Innovation Centre for Security and Development of Western Frontier China, (CICSDWFC) Sichuan University, and Chi Huyen Truong, programme coordinator of HUC. David Molden, director general (DG) of ICIMOD and Luo Zhongshu, DG of CICSDWFC, delivered welcome speeches. Mihir Shah, professor at Schiff Nadal University, made a presentation titled "High Education of HKH Region". Li Tao, professor and vice director at the South Asia Institute, Sichuan University made a presentation titled "Cooperation in Himalaya Based on the Belt and Road Initiative".

The keynote speech session was co-chaired by Laurie Vasily, head of the Knowledge Management and Communication Unit at ICIMOD and Luo Zhongshu. Yan Shijing, professor and vice president of Sichuan University; Surendra Shrestha, professor and vice president at the Thailand Institute of Polytechnic; Martin Gerzabek, professor and president of the

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria gave keynote speeches.

Four specific sessions – "Livelihood Improvement by Sustainable Use of Mountain Resources"

, "Risk Mitigation and Resilience Construction", "Big Data of Hydrologic System", and "Mountain Resources for Poverty Alleviation and Development" – were held. Scientists and scholars from within and outside of HUC institutes presented these topics. Discussions were arranged for each session.

The 2017 HUC Annual Meeting was also held in Chengdu on 1 November. A keynote speech on the Belt and Road Scholarship was made by Yan Shijing. Since 2015 the number of HUC members has increased to 47.

## Chinese Journalists and CAS Scientists Travel through Sichuan–Tibet Transportation Corridor

An event titled "Journalists of China Witness CAS scientists Supporting Sichuan–Tibet Transportation Corridor Construction 2017" was launched by CAS during 20–30 June 2017. Twenty journalists from People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, Guangming Daily, Economic Daily, Science & Technology Daily, China Youth Daily, CCTV, The Central People's Broadcasting Station, China Radio International, China News Service, Wen Wei Po, China Science Daily, etc. attended this field trip along the Sichuan-Tibet Transportation Corridor and interviewed CAS scientists who also join the field trip.

Starting from Chengdu on 21 June 2017, the journalists-scientists group travelled 10 days crossing Ya'an, Luding, Kangding, Yajiang River, Litang, Batang, Jinsha River in Sichuan Province, Mangkang, Zuogong, Badu, Bomi,

Chinese journalists witness CAS scientists supporting Sichuan-Tibet transportation





Milin in Tibet, and finally reached its final destination in Linzhi. The group investigated some mountain hazard (debris flow and landslide) sites along the Sichuan-Tibet Transportation Corridor and the journalists interviewed CAS scientists on how mountain hazard mitigation technology helps with high road and railway construction between Sichuan and Tibet.



Group photo of the Digital Mountain Committee at its third workshop

### Third Digital Mountain Committee of Chinese Committee of International Society for Digital Earth Workshop held in Chengdu

The third workshop for the Digital Mountain Committee of Chinese Committee of International Society for Digital Earth (CNISDE) was held in Chengdu during 19–22 October 2017 with the theme “big data of geography and mountain earth surface process”. Nearly 150 representatives from over 20 universities and institutes participated in this workshop, which was hosted by the Digital Mountain Committee of CNISDE, organized by the Institutes of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS (IMHE) and sponsored by the Journal of Remote Sensing, the Journal of Mountain Science, and some enterprises.

Liao Ke from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) and academician of the International Academy of Eurasian Sciences made a keynote presentation titled “Development and Prospect of Digital Map Chinese Cartography. Deng Wei, professor from IMHE, academician of the International Academy of Eurasian Sciences, made a keynote presentation titled “Land Spatial Characteristics and Digital Portrayals in Mountain Areas”.

Scientists and scholars made presentations and discussions about the green silk road, targeted poverty alleviation in mountain areas, eco-civilization construction and sustainable development in two sessions titled “Mountain Remote Sensing and Earth Surface Process” and “Comprehensive Application and Mapping of Digital Mountain”. Some of the participants joined a field trip to the starting point of South Silk Road.

The Digital Mountain Committee of Chinese Committee of International Society for Digital Earth is a non-profit organization for academic exchange on digital mountain research in China.

## Belt and Road Initiative

### CPEC Natural Disaster and Integrated Disaster Mitigation Conference and Belt and Road Natural Disaster and Integrated Disaster Mitigation Conference Held

The 21st Century Maritime Silk Route Economic Belt covers more than 70 countries and 4.4 billion people (63% of the world). Due to active underlying geological structures, rapid tectonic uplift, and obvious climatic differences and natural hazards (e.g., earthquakes, landslides, and debris flow, etc.) occur frequently along the Silk Road Economic Belt. Moreover, due to climate change and active submarine earthquakes, natural hazards (e.g., typhoons, tropical storm surges, and tsunamis), the Silk Road has attracted increasing attention. These frequently occurring natural hazards along the Belt and Road affect the security and social development of multiple nations. It is thus necessary to conduct fundamental research on hazard mechanisms to provide scientific guidance for natural hazards prevention, construction of major infrastructure, and disaster relief with high efficiency and precision.

In order to guarantee the security of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and provide scientific support to the implementation of the Belt and Road Programme, the 2017 CPEC Natural Disaster and Integrated Disaster Mitigation Conference and the Second Belt and Road Natural Disaster and Integrated Disaster Mitigation Conference was held on 17 and 18 July in Islamabad, Pakistan. The conference which was jointly hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and organized by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Pakistan Karakoram International University, etc. The event attracted over 140 experts, scientific staff or engineering technology staff who were from 12 countries, including China, Pakistan, Russia, Italy, Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Hungary, Austria, Germany etc.



CAS Vice President Zhang Jie delivers a speech at the conference

Deputy Chairman of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Jie Zhang attended the conference and delivered a speech as a representative of the organizer. Zhang stated clearly that the CPEC was located at the intersection of the Himalayan Mountains, Karakoram Mountains and Hindu Kush Mountains. The region has a great number of advanced scientific research topics and major problems on disaster prevention and relief. He also said that China and Pakistan have great potential for future scientific cooperation. He said the conference was an opportunity to enhance science and technology cooperation in disaster prevention and relief as well as security engineering. He said that it is essential to strengthen cooperation with other participating nations to comprehensively improve disaster risk prevention capacity, comprehensively support CPEC construction, and serve the implementation of the national strategy of the Belt and Road. He wished the conference a complete success.

General Secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology, Fazal Abbas Maken; General Secretary of Pakistan's Academy of Sciences, Zabta Khan Shinwari; Deputy President of Karakoram International University, M Asif Khan; and General Director of the International Cooperation Bureau of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Jinghua Cao also attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches.

Academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dahe Qin, Peng Cui, and Jun Xia; General Director of the Pakistan Metrology Bureau, Ghulam Rasul; Alessandro Pasuto from the Institute of Hydro Geological Disaster Research of Italy National Research Council; and Charles WW NG of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology delivered lectures at the event. During the discussion sessions, participating experts and researchers talked about earthquakes, landslides, debris flows, flood, avalanches, and other typical natural disasters in the CPEC. They also discussed information accumulation, formation mechanisms, judging methods, dynamic processes, risk qualitative assessments, monitoring and early warning, key preventing and treating technologies,

disaster information sharing, risk management, and post-disaster reconstruction. An agreement was reached on the management of major engineering infrastructure for disaster risk prevention and a mechanism for research cooperation. This could become a foundation for enhancing comprehensive cooperation in disaster prevention and relief.

In order to support the Belt and Road and China Pakistan Economic Corridor construction, the Chinese Academy of Science carried out the Belt and Road Natural Disaster and Integrated Disaster Mitigation International Cooperation Research Plan and STS Plan for Natural Disaster Risk Assessment and Disaster Reduction Solution Research in 2016 and 2017 respectively. These plans provide scientific support for regional security and sustainable development for the CPEC and the Belt and Road construction. During the conference, some significant phased objectives, which provided a solid foundation to serve the Belt and Road, were presented. It was preliminarily determined in the conference that the second Belt and Road Natural Disaster and Integrated Disaster Mitigation Conference would be held in China in 2018. It would gather eminent global experts and researchers and serve as think tank for the construction of the Belt and Road as well as build an international first-class disaster reduction and prevention cooperation mechanism and platform for the Belt and Road.

## President of Chinese Academy of Sciences Delivered Speech at Academic Forum for Second Comprehensive Scientific Investigation of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

The Academic Forum for the Second Comprehensive Scientific Investigation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau was held at the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS, on 6 September 2017. The President of the Chinese

President Bai Chunli talks at the second investigation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau





Academy of Sciences, Chunli Bai delivered a speech. Twenty-three academicians including Sun Honglie, former Deputy Director of CAS and Chen Yiyu, former Director of NSFC, 38 experts, and over 100 researchers from over 20 organizations and institutes participated in the forum, which was hosted by Sun Honglie.

Yao Tandong, principal investigator (PI) of the Second Comprehensive Scientific Investigation of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, introduced the preliminary action plan and emphasized the significance of this event. The five-year objective was to reveal the process and mechanism of environmental change and its impact on human society since the industrial revolution. The objective included predicting uncertainty of earth systematic behaviour in this region, evaluating strategic resource storage and capacity of natural resource and environment and disaster risk, putting forward a scientific action plan for the protection of Asia's water tower and ecological barrier. The construction of the third pole national park and green development and the national strategies of the Belt and Road and Eco-civilization Construction were also part of the objective. Eight missions have been designed to achieve this goal.

Twenty-three academicians gave advice and suggestions. President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter for this project inspired everyone, showing the way ahead. They suggested that the investigation be conducted from the perspective of global environment and human well-being, equipped with high technology to improve investigation abilities and efficiency. They also suggested that international members be involved and aimed for the platform and network of modern science and technology to cope with the mechanism, influence, and response of environmental change.

Bai Chuili made a summary comprising six aspects: 1) a think tank was necessary for consultation during the investigation; 2) a strategic plan and an action plan were necessary for the implementation of this activity; 3) a communication mechanism in and out of CAS was necessary for synergy and cooperation; 4) an efficient management system (to learn from CAS Pilot Project management) was necessary for significant achievements output; 5) a combination of the first and second investigation was necessary for better understanding of the spirit of this activity and high-level breakthrough; and 6) advanced remote sensing technologies were necessary for significant achievements output.

The Second Comprehensive Scientific Investigation of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau was launched on 19 August 2017 to investigate water, ecology, human activities; to analyse the impact of environmental change on human society development; and to propose a plan on ecological security barrier function protection and the third pole national park construction in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

## Training Programme on Natural Disaster Alleviation along the Belt and Road held in Chengdu

A training programme on major natural disaster alleviation along the Belt and Road, sponsored by CAS and organized by IMHE, was held in Chengdu during 2–9 September 2017 with over 110 trainees (experts and governors) from China, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Thailand, and Indonesia.

The training courses were conducted by China's eminent geo-hazards scientists and experts including Cui Peng, Su Lijun, and Chen Ningsheng from IMHE; Hu Xiewen and Yao Lingkan from Xinnanjiang University; Xu Qiang and Fan Xuanmei from Chengdu University of Technology; and the Xing Huilin from the University of Queensland. Presentations were made on natural disaster risk control; prediction, identification, early warning; and comprehensive prevention and control of debris flow; characteristics of earthquake-induced landslides; hydropower project's ability to resist natural disasters and its control technology; key issues of debris flow control in Wenchuan earthquake area; disaster risk control in the construction of transnational railway along the Belt and Road; landslide monitoring technology and early warning; risk assessment and management of landslides: past and future; formation, evolution mechanism, and disaster reduction of geological hazards on the Loess Plateau; and application of multi-scale and multi-physical field Geo-computing in geo-hazards.

All the trainees attended a field trip to earthquake sites in Wenchuan during 6–8 September 2017 for further understanding geo-hazards mitigation and prevention project and early warning system.

The training program on natural disaster alleviation along the Belt and Road





International Silk Road Academy of Sciences set up in Beijing

## International Silk Road Academy of Sciences Kick-off Ceremony

Source: International Silk Road Academy of Sciences Kick-Off Committee

International Congress on Scientific and Technological Innovation and Kick-Off Ceremony of International Silk Road Academy of Sciences (ISRAS) was held on 23–24 September 2017 in Beijing which made four substantial achievements that marked the official launching of ISRAS.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative can be traced back to Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to central Asia and Southeast Asia from September to October 2013. In order to unite together scientific and technological experts from countries along the B&R for further international cooperation, research collaboration, technology exchanges and consultations in dozens of S&T domains, such as strategic alignment and collaboration, resource development and utilization, economic transformation and upgrading, ecology and environment security, as well as cultural exchanges to jointly tackle the issues emerging during the B&R development, for instance

disparate development, incoordination of state strategies, information asymmetry and cultural differences etc. Jiang Zhenghua, President of IEAS (China), Nurtay bykayev, President of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as Oleg Kuznetsov, President of Russian Academy of Natural Sciences jointly proposed the initiative of launching International Silk Road Academy of Sciences in early 2016 which was defined primarily as an international high-level, non-governmental and non-profit scientific institution that unites scientists and experts together from Europe, Asia, and Africa in terms of technology, enterprise, finance and management to uphold the B&R. The international high-end consulting center and new high-end think tank has been supported by the science and technology communities along the B&R.

With this background, the ISRAS Preparatory Office has drafted the Constitution of International Silk Road Academy of Sciences and reached consensuses with authorities and non-governmental S&T organizations, institutions and universities from more than 20 countries along the B&R after repeatedly discussions and consultations. President Xi Jinping's keynote speech entitled "Work Together to Build the Silk Road Economic Belt and The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" delivered on Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on 14 May 2017 has been navigating the development route of ISRAS and stepped up the launching pace of this organization. Moreover, the total membership has reached 25 despite the primarily three, such as China, Russia and Kazakhstan. And all of them agreed and signed the Constitution of International Silk Road Academy of Sciences.

Therefore, the International Congress on Scientific and Technological Innovation and Kick-Off Ceremony of International Silk Road Academy of Sciences held 23–24 September 2017 in Beijing was a timely event to fulfil the dream.

**China considers ICIMOD as a valuable platform for increasing scientific exchange and regional cooperation among countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas.**

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